

Transcript of Press Availability Before House Democratic Caucus Meeting

WASHINGTON

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Rep. Larson: Good morning. It's always a pleasure to be here.

Rep. Becerra: Celebrating with the tie and the win.

Rep. Larson: Oh yeah, it'll get a shade of blue.

I'm pleased to be joined by our Vice Chair, Xavier Becerra and Dan Weiss, both of whom you're going to hear from.

We also are very saddened to learn of the passing of a dear friend and one of our colleagues, Don Payne.

[Moment of Silence]

Thank you very much. Don was a – I had the great honor of having him up to my district on several occasions.

Well we're here again today, still awaiting – I say 'awaiting' but as all of you are ~~awaiting~~ ^{aware of the} Republicans

Today, not only are we hearing from Mr. Weiss, but we'll also be hearing from Leo Hindery in our Caucus.

For us, the equation remains very specific: job creation equals deficit reduction. That will remain our motto.

And with that, let me turn it over to my colleague, Xavier Becerra, the Vice Chair.

Rep. Becerra:

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

I'll just add a couple of quick points. Just because you regurgitate a few bills and package them together

If they can't do that, then at least what they should do is pass something that we do every few years because

Yet what we have is Republican roadblock that is caused only by Republicans because it's an internal hurdle.

Unfortunately the House Republican bill, as we saw, was filled with extraneous and controversial measures.

And so if you can't come up with a jobs agenda, at least get the transportation bill through the Senate and

Final point: about a year ago today, the price of gasoline in Los Angeles was about \$3.90. About a month

This is another Exxon energy crisis in the making. If we don't get our foot on it right now, a lot of America

And so with that, let me yield back to the Chairman.

Rep. Larson:

Thank you Xavier and a

And with that, let me introduce our guest, as well, who will be speaking before the Caucus today on gas

Daniel Weiss, Center for American Progress Senior Fellow:

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Fortunately, under this Administration we are producing more of our own oil. For the first time since the

So, we're saving more oil than we have in over ten years. But, nonetheless, we are unable to have an in

When the United States increases its oil production—as it has—it's very easy for other countries to redu

So, because the oil is set on a worldwide basis, producing more our own oil is good for our economy—o

The President has already taken some steps to do so by doubling our fuel economy standards over the

We need to take other steps to get alternative fuels invested in. That includes electric cars, there's a big

Unfortunately, the highway bill that is pending before the House right now would eliminate certain funding

So, those are things we have to do to get off of oil. We need double fuel economy. We need to invest in

In the short run, there are some people in the Caucus and others on the outside—I'm one of them—that

Seems to me that now would be a good time to sell some of that oil, along with our allies selling some of

Again, thank you very much for having me here and I'll be honored to take any questions that aren't dire

Rep. Larson:

Thank you very much and

Q:

Do you agree with Prime

Rep. Larson:

Well, I agree with the Pr

Q:

Do you think the unusua

Rep. Larson:

Jeez, do you think they r

To the extent that this is an election year, yes, I think the Republicans have turned it up on several front

Thank you very much.

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